

REMARKS

By this response, Applicants have amended claims 11 and 14, canceled claims 13 and 15, without prejudice, and added new claims 21-37. As a result, claims 11-12, 14 and 21-37 are pending in this application. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration of the rejections of all claims in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Office rejects claims 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,200,633 (Dickert) and indicates that claims 12-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of the allowable subject matter of claims 12-14. By this response, Applicants have amended claim 11 to include the subject matter of claim 13. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 as allegedly being anticipated by Dickert.

Additionally, Applicants have added new claims 21-37 for consideration by the Office. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable as presented. For example, with respect to claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the claimed gallium nitride sensing layer. Further, with respect to claim 33, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the claimed combination of an electrical contact, a dielectric layer disposed below the contact, and a nitride active structure disposed below the dielectric layer.

Applicants submit that each of the pending claims is patentable for one or more additional unique features. To this extent, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's interpretation of the claimed subject matter or the references used in rejecting the claimed subject matter. These features have not been separately addressed herein for brevity. However, Applicants reserve the right to present such arguments in a later response should one be necessary.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. W. LaBatt' with a stylized flourish at the end.

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